THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The main runways at Delhi and Mumbai airports have been fully operational, except during the period of heavy rains at Mumbai and due to an accident involving Air Sahara flight at Mumbai.

(b) Due to heavy rains at Mumbai from 26.7.2005 to 1.8.2005, runways at Mumbai airport were out of operations from 1329 hours on 26.7.2005 to 1930 hours on 27.7.2005. Thereafter, they were made operational without Instrument Landing System (ILS) facility. The facility of ILS was later on commissioned on 2.8.2005. On 9.10.2005, M/s. Air Sahara Boeing 737 aircraft overshot the available landing distance of runway 27/09 at Mumbai airport and ploughed into the soft ground beyound the runway end. The runway 27 was closed at 1920 hours IST on 9.10.2005 and secondary runway was made operational at about 1950 hours on the same day. Runway 27 was partially opened at 2315 hours IST on 9th October, 2005 itself. Further, runway 27 with reduced/revised declared distances (due to presence of aircraft as on obstruction) was made available at 2315 hours. However, the same could only be used on 13.10.2005 after calibration of ILS and first flight operated at 1127 hours. At Indira Gandhi International Airport, the main runway was closed for carrying out development works for enhancing runway capacity during 18.8.2005 to 6.11.2005 - 9.00 hours to 1600 hours and from 7.11.2005 to 30.11.2005 - 0800 hours to 1630 hours. Secondary runways was available for operations during the closure period.

Losses due to floods

2139. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the damage/loss suffered to the airlines industry due to recent floods and natural calamities in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the loss suffered by various airlines as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to deal with such a situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, due to floods in

Mumbai, Air India and Indian Airlines cancelled 123 and 294 flights respectively. Indian Airlines/Alliance Air and Air India have suffered a loss of Rs. 4.09 crores and Rs. 17.09 crores respectively. According to information given by the private scheduled airlines, a total of 951 flights were cancelled by them and they suffered a loss of Rs. 24.83 crores.

(d) Adequate drainage system has been provided for disposal of the rain water to prevent the flooding on the runways at the airports. The drainage systems are being improved from time to time whenever deficiency is noticed due to unprecedented heavy rains.

Damage to Vishakhapatnam Airport

2140. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent incessant rains in Andhra Pradesh, Vishakapatnam airport was inundated in water for several days;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up upgradation of Vishakhapatnam airport with the help of Navy and State Government of Andhra Pradesh with an estimated cost of Rs. 200 crores;

(d) whether a new terminal building and runway is also being constructed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total rainfall recorded on 14th and 15th October, 2005 in Vishakhapatnam was 236 mm whereas the average monthly rainfall is 204 mm for the month of October. As a result, the discharge from various adjoining hills and the rivulets was very high. The release of water from Mehadrigedda Reservoir located approximately 8 kms from the airport so as to maintain safe level also added additional quantity of water to cause flood at the airport.

(c) Yes, Sir. Upgradation work at Vishakhapatnam airport has been taken up jointly by Navy Wing of Ministry of Defence, State Government of Andhra Pradesh and Airports Authority of India (AAI) at an estimated cost of Rs. 191.52 crores.